



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 2, 2011

H.R. 192 **Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries** **Boundary Modification and Protection Act**

As introduced on January 5, 2011

SUMMARY

H.R. 192 would expand the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary; both are located off the coast of northern California and are managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Assuming appropriation of the amounts specified in the bill for sanctuary management and estimated to be necessary to acquire a new vessel to help manage the sanctuaries, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 192 would cost \$20 million over the 2012-2016 period. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues or direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 192 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 192 would impose private-sector mandates, as defined in UMRA, by limiting certain commercial and recreational activities in the areas added to the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries. Based on information from NOAA, CBO estimates that the cost of the mandates would fall below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$142 million in 2011, adjusted annually for inflation).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 192 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2012-
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Additional Operating Costs						
Authorization Level	3	3	3	3	3	15
Estimated Outlays	3	3	3	3	3	15
Vessel Acquisition and Construction						
Estimated Authorization Level	4	1	0	0	0	5
Estimated Outlays	0	2	2	1	0	5
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	7	4	3	3	3	20
Estimated Outlays	3	5	5	4	3	20

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 192 will be enacted near the end of 2011 and that the amounts specifically authorized or estimated to be necessary will be appropriated for each year. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$3 million for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016 to manage the areas added to the two sanctuaries. In recent years, about \$2 million has been appropriated annually for this purpose.

The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$3.5 million for 2012 and whatever sums are necessary for 2013 through 2016 to acquire an additional vessel to manage the expanded sanctuaries. Based on information provided by NOAA, CBO estimates that an additional \$1 million would be needed in 2013 to complete the acquisition of the new vessel. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for NOAA programs and assume that NOAA would not acquire a new vessel until it received full funding for the project in 2013.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

H.R. 192 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

H.R. 192 would extend current regulations and any subsequent modifications to those regulations to the areas added to the sanctuaries by the bill. Some of those regulations would impose mandates, as defined in UMRA, by limiting certain commercial and recreational activities that could injure sanctuary resources. Based on information from NOAA about activities in the affected areas and existing regulations for the sanctuaries, CBO estimates that the cost of complying with the mandates would fall below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$142 million in 2011, adjusted annually for inflation).

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On June 30, 2011, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 179, the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on June 8, 2011. H.R. 192 and S. 179 are similar, and the CBO cost estimates are the same.

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